

The City of Clayton
Community Equity Commission
Virtual Zoom Meeting
April 8, 2021 at 5:30 PM

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 pm.

Roll Call

Present: Laura Horwitz (Chair), Chris Schmiz, Yvonne Tisdell, Ben Uchitelle, Frances Pires, Stuart Berkowitz, Ted Wheeler, Dr. Sean Doherty (ex officio), Ellen Gale (ex officio), JoAnna Schooler (ex officio), Laurie Anzilotti (ex officio), and Kenneth Murdoch (ex officio).

Additional: Alderwoman Joanne Boulton, Alderwoman Susan Buse, City Manager David Gipson, and Assistant to the City Manager Andrea Muskopf

Minutes

Ben Uchitelle moved to approve the March 11, 2021 minutes. Frances Pires seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Reflection: Atlanta Incident and Supporting Asian Community

Rev. Laurie Anzilotti and Yvonne Tisdell led the Commission in moment of reflection, prayer, and remembrance for Asian American victims of violence.

2020 Special Thanks

Yvonne Tisdell led the Commission in a reflection on the Commission's accomplishments over the past year. Chair Horwitz recognized that this was Alderwoman Boulton's last meeting as aldermanic liaison.

Beginning Thoughts and Considerations for Affordable Housing/Diverse Community

Dr. Sean Doherty and Yvonne Tisdell presented their beginning thoughts and considerations for Affordable Housing/Diverse Community and the Commission

Communications Ideation

This discussion has been delayed.

Old Business

Public Comments from March 11, 2021

City Manager Gipson reviewed the public comments from the March 11 meeting.

Updates on Board of Aldermen Discussions

Yvonne Tisdell, Chris Schmiz, and Ben Uchitelle shared updates from the discussion session with the Mayor and Board of Aldermen at the March 23 Board of Aldermen meeting.

Mayor's Commemorative Landscape Task Force (Task Force)

Mayor Michelle Harris, Geoff Ward, Chris Schmiz, and Assistant to the City Manager Muskopf presented the evaluation criteria created by the Task Force and invited feedback from the Commission.

Public Comment

Rick Bliss inquired about the meeting minutes on the City's website.

Alderman Dan Sokol commended the Commission for all of their hard work and dedication.

Jonathan Schehen shared that he appreciated the discussion the Commission had during the meeting and all of the work the Commission continues to do.

Kathleen Gund submitted her comment in writing ahead of the meeting. City Manager Gipson read the comment aloud.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for May 13 at 5:30 pm.

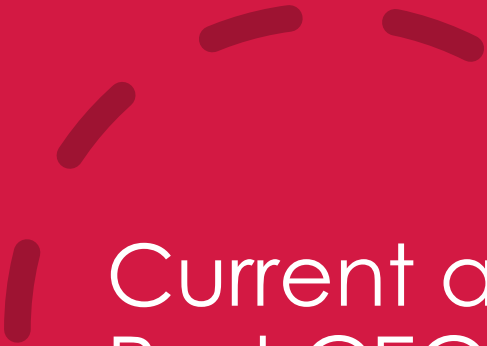
Adjourn

Having no other business, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

“Never **underestimate** the power of a **small group** of committed people to change the world. In fact, it is the only thing that ever has.” ~ Margaret Mead.

Thanks to all of the Community Equity Commission (CEC) for a successful 2020 year-first year!





Current and Past CEC members, Ex- officio members and BOA Liaisons

Current Members:

Laura
Horwitz-
Chair

Frances Pires

Christine
Schmiz

Stuart
Berkowitz

Ben
Uchitelle

Yvonne
Tisdell

Ted Wheeler

Ex-officio Members:

Dr Sean
Doherty

Joanna
Schooler

Reverend
Laurie
Anzilotti

Kenneth
Murdock

Ellen Gale

BOA Liaisons:

Susan Buse

Joanne
Boulton

Past Members:

Nikki Bisel

Adam
Sheble



Special Thanks

CEC give special Thanks to:

Mayor and Board of Aldermen

Chief Smith-Chief of Police

David Gipson-City Manager

Andrea Muskopf-Asst. City Manager

All the dedicated citizens who attend the CEC meetings and the Clayton citizens

Mayor's Commemorative Landscape Task Force

Guiding Principles

1. Commemorative objects should align with our community's highest aspirations, including as these relate to truthfulness, equity, and inclusion.
2. When considering existing or proposed commemorative objects, the City of Clayton should seek to honestly and productively engage history, and never to erase it.
3. When considering inherited and new commemorative objects, both past and present contributions and impacts of the representation must be given careful consideration.

Evaluation Criteria

1. Is the *principal legacy* of the namesake and/or is the subject depicted fundamentally at odds with current community values? If yes, please explain.
2. What was the context at the time and is that something we want to continue to honor and embrace?
3. Does the place name or commemorative object celebrate a part of history that believe is fundamental to who we are and what we value?
4. Does the place name or commemorative object make a nuanced, complex history accessible to the public, or provide an opportunity to educate the public?
5. Does the place name or commemorative object restore histories that have been erased or not adequately represented, or provide an opportunity to educate the public?

Approval Process



Items Under Consideration (Short List)

- ☐ Portrait of Ralph Clayton
- ☐ Jackson Avenue
- ☐ Areas of Clayton were historically black after the Civil War
- ☐ Philippine Exhibit at World's Fair
- ☐ Pay tribute to the Osage Nation

Comments/Questions

Andrea Muskopf

From: Kathleen Gund <kathleenmgund@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 9:15 AM
To: Andrea Muskopf
Subject: Comment for 4.8.21 CEC meeting

[CAUTION – EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Dear Andrea,

Can you please distribute the following to the CEC members?

Thank you, Kathleen

To Members of the Community Equity Commission,

I have closely followed the public discussions, actions, and communications of the CEC since its first meeting in March of 2020--lots for the Commission members to be proud of, particularly in the areas of education and awareness.

But I'd like to bring attention back to a question that was brought up at the first CEC meeting on March 9, 2020. *What are the **structural** issues that prevent us from being diverse?*

As the CEC evaluates its priorities for 2021, I would like to ask the Commission to consider a full review of our City's structure (laws, policies, established practices, cultural norms, etc.) using the lens of equity. A review would cohere with the section of Ordinance 6621 stating that one of the CEC's objectives is to "evaluate and develop actionable equity recommendations to be used to examine and strengthen policies, practices, services and programs". The goal of this review would be to guide the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen to make those changes necessary to better foster a diverse and inclusive community.

Thank you,

Kathleen Gund